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THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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VOLUME XXXIV. NUMBER 1. | CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1887. | *Per Annum in Advance.* TOWN ..... 11-8 MOFUSSIL..... 13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 27TH DECEMBER.

RABBITS have long enjoyed the name of puss, they must have of late also acquired her ninefold vitality, or she could not have lived for "several days" with her brain punctured deep. Besides, how can science thrive without such sensational discoveries as is announced by Aronshon and Sarchs, concerning a thermal center in the brain? By systematically piercing the brains of rabbits in various places, no effect was noticed in the temperature until a place on either side of the middle line of the junction of the forehead and top of the skull was penetrated. As soon as these points were pierced, the temperature rose enormously, even when the animal was in a cool atmosphere, and remained high for several days. In some cases, the temperature rose to 107 degrees, and was the same all over the body. Simple laceration of the brain did not produce the result, but only when the subcortical center was reached. The deeper the spot was penetrated, the quicker the temperature rose. This shows that there is a thermogenic center in the brain, the excitement of which will produce all ordinary symptoms of fever, acceleration of pulse and respiration, and that fever may be produced in a purely nervous way.

UNDER Act VIII. of 1885, his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that a survey be made and a record of rights prepared, in reference to all lands comprised within certain boundaries of the Sunkerpore estate in Rungpore, Dinajpore, Maldah, and Rajshahye districts. A similar order, excepting 235 villages included in the external boundaries of pergunnah Guddeswar and tuppehs Chukla Nye and Butsaleh in Mozufferpore district, has been cancelled by the Governor-General-in-Council.

PRINCESS Louise and Lord Lorne have postponed their contemplated trip to this conntry.

A HUGE rock-snake has been captured on the Railway near Bangalore while swallowing a goat. It is twenty feet long and thicker than a man's thigh.

DR. MACALISTER, lecturing in London, said that if the fibres contained in a man's tongue were placed end to end, they would reach eight miles, while, if they were all strung together, they would be capable of lifting three hundredweights. The doctor would do well to give some ocular demonstration of the correctness of his theory. Some peoples' tongue is long enough, occasionally too long we were going to say, and capable of lifting more weight than claimed by the scientist. Is it all due to the fibre? How immensely, then, must their constitution vary in the animal economy of different persons, specially in the different sexes!

THE great bridge two and a half miles long which is to span the straits of Messina, thereby connecting Sicily and Italy, will cross the water almost directly above the famous Scylla and Charybdis described in the classics as the terror of mariners in ancient times.

AN unfortunate accident has occurred to the Jhelum Bridge on the Sind-Saugor State Railway, which is being constructed at Chak Nizam. One sleeper stack, which formed part of the staging of the second span, took fire. Every effort was made to get the fire under, but, owing to a sharp breeze, the whole of the staging was in a blaze and the girders fell with a crash into the river, and only by the greatest exertions was a temporary wooden bridge close by saved from destruction. No injury to life or limb attended.

ANOTHER rival to India in the production of tea is spoken of. This is Hawali, where experiments have been carried on with plants from both India and Japan, the latter proving to be the most successful. The consequence is that a plan is now on foot for establishing a large tea plantation in the island.

THE Allahabad paper tells rather an old story when it says Sir Auckland Colvin will probably succeed Sir Alfred Lyall as Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, although no official intimation of the appointment has yet been made. We were under the impression that it was confidently asserted some time ago that Sir A. Colvin had been chosen for the next Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West. The *Pioneer* also says that Mr. C. A. Elliot will be likely to succeed Sir A. Colvin as Finance Minister.

ACCORDING to the *Civil and Military Gazette*, reliable news from Afghanistan—from a source entirely independent—corroborated the fact that matters are quiet *pro tem*. But the tribal combination of the Ghilzais against the Ameer still continues in full force, and the winter alone prevents its active exhibition, the passes being closed by snow to military operations on an extended scale. With the ensuing spring, further disturbances are apprehended, as the Ghilzais are exasperated at the atrocious and bloody treachery of the Ameer's Commander-in-Chief, and are resolved to avenge it by similar reprisals.

TUESDAY, 28TH DECEMBER.

MR. WILLIAM Wilson's ostrich farm at Delhi has been making encouraging progress. The young brood incubated last year have thriven wonderfully well, and Mr. Wilson's venture seems now to be an assured success. The farm has been removed to a more secluded locality in the interior of the district, where the birds have the benefit of fresher air and more exercise, and, being naturally of a timid nature, are less liable to be disturbed by visitors and sight-seers. "From what I have been able to learn," writes a contemporary's Delhi correspondent, "Mr. Wilson has not yet derived any profit out of the business, but he has managed to meet all his expenditure on feed and keep. from the income obtained from the sale of feathers. Next year it is his intention to begin selling off the indigenous stock and reaping the fruits of his labour. Mr. Wilson would appear to have studied the subject with much care and attention, and his farm well repays the trouble and expense of a visit. The grounds are clean and neatly kept, the birds well and comfortably paddocked, and there is plenty of room to exercise. The jackals have been giving much trouble, and have succeeded in carrying off some of the young birds, but Mr. Wilson has had his revenge, between four and five hundred jackals having been poisoned by him within the past year."

THE *Indian Daily News* passes a well-deserved tribute to the memory of a person who was for some time one of our leading scientists, and a really good and able man:—"We regret to have to record the death of another old Indian notability, who will yet be long remembered by a generation that is even yet young. Dr. Norman Chevers, a quarter of a century ago, was a prominent man in Calcutta. He was eminent in his profession and popular out of it. He took a fair share of public duty in various ways, and was always ready to lend a hand in every good work. He was an able and willing lecturer, and took an active part in the earlier and more prosperous days of the Dalhousie Institute, and was also one of the members of the Corporation. In his profession at the head of the Medical College Hospital, he was popular—his kindness and courtesy, frank and genial manner endearing him to all. Socially, too, he was also a most agreeable man, and was a recognised authority on many subjects, not merely in his profession. He was the author of several works, and his book on Medical Jurisprudence is now frequently referred to as an authority. On the 2nd December, Doctor Chevers was intending to go out for a walk from his residence in London, when he fell down and expired.

A TELEGRAM has been despatched by the Premier of New South Wales to the Agent-General in London, authorising him to present to the Imperial Institute, in the name of the colony, the whole of the New South Wales exhibits at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, with the exception of those forwarded from Sydney by private exhibitors.

WITH reference to technical education, it is said to have been decided not to establish any schools of the kind by the State at present, but to sanction liberal grants in aid of such institutions established by private enterprize. The step, if the rumour be true, is a judicious one.

A GERMAN journalist has been sentenced to nine years' penal servitude for furnishing important naval and military information of a secret sort to the French Government. Journalism in the very centres of civilization and enlightenment is not therefore, always as comfortable it seems, as in some backward places; but the punishment is not undeserved. No mercy to Bazaines.

THE China papers announce the return of the Marquis Tseng. His Excellency left Shanghai for Peking on the 2nd December.

THE Germans are training dogs for out-post duty and for night messengers during war. The one cry of civilization is for destruction, and no means in the material kingdom are to be spared for the attainment of the end.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH DECEMBER.

A PACIFIC submarine cable is now being projected. The estimated cost is £2,000,000; total annual subsidy £100,000; all the lines of the Canadian Government to be used free. It will be constructed in the following sections:—the first from Brisbane, or some part of New South Wales, to the North Cape of New Zealand, a distance of 1,300 knots; the second from the North Cape to Fizi, 2,240 knots; the third to Fanning Island, 2,270 knots; the fourth to one of the Sandwich Islands, 1,260 knots; the fifth to Vancouver's Island, 2,730 knots; and the sixth across the island, and the Straights of Georgia to Vancouver's city on the Pacific coast, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway, 100 miles; total length, 8,000 miles.

THEY have just finished, in the United States, the most powerful telescope that has ever been constructed. It measures almost a metre in diameter, and twenty metres in length. One of its earliest applications will be to point it towards the planet Mars, and to endeavour to understand the remarkable features presented in its geography.

THE Secretary to the *Katak Bhagavat Bhakti Pradayini Sabha* has sent us the following long telegram. We readily make room for it as we have made for those that have preceded it, because it most intimately concerns the Hindoo public of India and one of their holiest places of pilgrimage. "An extraordinary meeting of the Bhagabat Bhakti-pradayini Sabha, attended by upwards of five thousand Hindus of all classes, was held on the 26th December at the Gopalji Mundir in connection with the Puri temple case, where the following Resolutions were proposed and carried by unanimous *haribols*. Some uneducated people with the permission of the President expressed their opinions very eloquently. Such speeches by the masses are new to India:—I.—That the presence of the Thakur Rajah being, according to the Hindu *Shastras*, indispensably necessary for the performance of certain rituals and ceremonies of the great God Jagannath, his removal from the office of Superintendent is opposed to the wishes and the religious feelings of the Hindu community, for the Thakur Rajah is regarded as the incarnate representative of the great God Jagannath, and, as such, he enjoys the religious respect and reverence of the Hindu community in a degree greater than that enjoyed by any other earthly Power. II.—That there has never been any gross mismanagement, which would justify the institution of a suit. The management of the temple by the Rajah has, on the other hand, afforded no reason for dissatisfaction to the people at large. Under such circumstances, the institution of the suit and the attachment of the temple and its properties before judgment without notice to the defendant is too severe and uncalled for. III.—That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the Rani of Puri, expressing the sincere sympathy of this meeting in her present distress. IV.—That the whole Hindu population of India be asked to write on this important case, and to take every lawful measure which can loyally be done to preserve their religion. V.—That measures be taken to unite and secure the sympathy and co-operation of the Hindu population of the North-West Provinces and the Bengal, Bombay and Madras Presidencies. VI.—That copies of these Resolutions be sent to the Hindu Maharajahs, Rajahs, Zemindars, Mahunts, Adhicaries and other respectable and wealthy Hindus, inviting their

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hearty co-operation and sympathy. VII—That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to Government with the request that it will be pleased to withdraw the suit. VIII.—That these Resolutions be translated into the several languages of India so that they may be understood by the Hindus of different parts of the country. IX.—That the quotations from the *Shastras*, made by Pundit Nanda Satpathy, while moving the first Resolution, be sent along with the copy of the resolutions, to Government. X.—That a Sub-Committee be formed out of the members of the Bhagabat Bhakti-pradayini Sabha to enable the President to give effect to these Resolutions." The question is naturally agitating the Orissa public very much. But we withhold all remarks on the merits of the case as it is strictly *sub-judice*, a suit having been actually instituted in the Katak Court to obtain an authoritative expression of opinion.

THURSDAY, 30TH DECEMBER.

LORD and Lady Wynsford are at present at Lucknow, staying at the Royal Hotel.

THE Queen's Jubilee will be celebrated all over England, the Municipal Corporations throughout the country having resolved to take combined action in the matter.

SAYS the *Englishman*: "Sir Rivers Thompson's term of office expires on the 23rd of April, but he will probably leave India by the end of March. Sir Steuart Bayley leaves England in the last week of February, his leave expiring on the 19th of March. He will be accompanied by Mr. Edgar, the future Secretary."

A FRENCH journal, published in Pondicherry, makes the sensational announcement that the object of Lord Dufferin's visit to Pondicherry "is to show the discontented spirits of India that, in the event of their rising, they will not have to deal with England alone, but with the might of the French Indian Army!" Away with such flippant nonsense, we say. If the French or any other army have to be fought against on behalf of the Queen, the "discontented spirits," will be to the fore.

THE Public Service Commission terminated their investigations at Lahore on the 27th instant. The present system of recruiting the Statutory service was condemned by the majority of the witnesses. All witnesses, including officials, with two exceptions only, spoke in favor of raising the present limit of age for the Civil Service Competitive Examination to 22 years. The Indian witnesses unanimously wanted a separate Competitive Civil Service Examination in India, and some eminent European witnesses also advocated this. A compulsory residence for a stated period in England for those examined in India was also insisted upon in some cases. The Commission left Lahore, on Tuesday a Sub-Committee of two members remaining, one or two days to complete business.

Now that the Finance Committee is broken up, the Hon. H. S. Cunningham will resume his seat on the Bench of the High Court, displacing Mr. W. F. Agnew, who will proceed to Rangoon by the next mail steamer to take up his substantive appointment as Recorder.

THE I. G. steamer *Clive* arrived in port on Monday last, with 135 convicts from Burmah, from the local Central Jail, who are to be thus distributed amongst the following Jails:—Alipore 16, Benares 88, Jubbulpore 18, and Yerrowda 13. A large number of convicts, dacoits, &c., from Burmah have arrived at Calcutta during the past few months for distribution to the various jails, which would at first sight suggest the idea that the local jails must have been found insufficient to provide accommodation for the large number of dacoits who are being daily sentenced; but the real cause is a desire to keep turbulent characters away from their native country.

LORD AND LADY ROSEBERY have gone to Peshawur. Lord Rosebery will visit Quetta, going there by the Bolan, riding as far as Kuch, and returning by the Harnai route. His Lordship then proceeds to Allahabad.

A CORRESPONDENT states that when the last mail left England, a rumour was current in military circles that there was every probability of a year's service being given to the army in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. Will not India and the Indian Services reap some tangible and substantial benefits in honor of the auspicious event?

THE capital outlay on the irrigation works in the Madras Presidency up to the end of the year 1885, was a little over two millions starling, and the balance of income, after paying all charges, has been over three-and-three-quarter millions. This increased revenue is by no means the only benefit the country has erceived. Large tracts of land have been protected from famine, the trade of the people has increased upwards of 12 per cent., the land revenue has been more than doubled, and the rates of assessment per head of population have been largely reduced. Seeing that railways on an average do not yield three per cent., on the capital invested, it would appear that in Madras, at any rate, Government money can be more profitably invested in irrigation.

THE *Dainik* says that the members of the Hindoo Hostel Committee held a meeting on Wednesday before last, presided over by Mr. A. W, Croft, Director of Public Instruction, to discuss a project for building a hostel for the native students of Government colleges and schools, the place selected being adjacent to the Presidency College.

A LONDON telegram to the *Pioneer* announces that it is reported that all German students and officers on furlough have been ordered to rejoin their regiments. From the same source, we learn that other changes in the Cabinet are expected in consequence of Lord Randolph Churchill's action. Mr. Goschen is discussed as a possible successor to his Lordship, if Lord Hartington will not accept Conservative overtures

THE official members of the N. W. P. and Oudh Legislative Council are Messrs. J. W. Quinton, Z. Woodburn, A. MaConaghey, and G. G. Knox. The non-official members are Mr. T. Coulan, barrister, Raja Pertab Narayen Singh, Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadoor, Pundit Ajodhia Nath, and Rai Doorga Persad, Bahadoor, of Gorukpore.

FRIDAY, 31ST DECEMBER.

WE hear that the Government has selected the undermentioned Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors to give evidence before the Public Service Commission in Calcutta.—Baboos Obhoy Chandra Dass, Board of Revenue, and Kalichurn Ghose, Deputy Collector. Alipore. Babu Ram Sankar Sen, Roy Bahadoor, a retired Deputy Collector, has also been summoned to give evidence before the body.

A COUNCIL of all the Roman Catholic Bishops of Southern India takes place at Bangalore on the 25th of January. The establishment of a Roman Catholic Hierarchy in India will be proclaimed from that date. The Indian Bishops will derive their titles from their Indian Dioceses, and not from places outside India. About ten Bishops are expected to be present at the Council including Dr. Colgan, Archbishop elect of Madras. The Council will be presided over by Monsignor Agliardi, the Archbishop of Cæsarea and the Pope's delegate in India.

A REPORT from the Yen district states that on the 24th December, a column was sent against a dakait village about 28 miles north-west of Yen, and killed eleven men, captured some arms, 27 carts, and 128 head of cattle. Our loss was one trooper, Haiderabad Contingent, wounded.

THE ruby mines column has reached a height of four thousand feet. General Stewart telegraphs from Sagadoung that the enemy's vedettes fired on the column, but large bodies are abandoning their posts and retreating before the column.

"AMONG the documents registered last year in Assam was one of a somewhat novel character. A Muhammadan, who was given to opium eating, married; but the lady's relatives objecting to his evil habits he entered into this curious compact:—"I do hereby declare that I was in the habit of eating opium which I left off since two years; but as you do not believe me I enter into this agreement, the conditions of which are, that if you see me ever eating opium or get sufficient proof of my doing so, your sister will be at liberty to break off her marriage with me, and I shall relinquish all claim upon her." Unfortunately for the good intentions of this maligned individual, the attempt to turn the Registration Department into an agency for the promotion of teetotal principles was pronounced null and void."

SEVERAL Vienna newspapers report that the Servian Government has discovered a plot formed by Montenegrins for the kidnapping of King Milan. The King was to have been seized while outshooting on his country estate, and carried off into Montenegro.

A PARIS correspondent states that lady Dilke insists upon paying the costs her husband incurred in the two law suits in which he was implicated. Very noble and ladylike indeed! But is the report meant to convey the idea that the lady implicitly believes in the saintliness of her husband?

The *World* understands that Lady Helen Black-wood "never cared greatly for India, though she and

Miss Thynne must certainly have seen it under the most favourable auspices. The daughter of a Viceroy ought, if any one, to find life worth living in her father's kingdom, and there are duller spots on earth than Calcutta and Simla."

THE interest taken by the Queen in the Hindustani craftsmen taken to London by Dr. Tyler has not ceased with their departure from European shores. Her Majesty has written out through Sir Henry Ponsonby inquiring of their welfare and condoling with the family of the poor fellow who died on the outward voyage. Mahomed Hossein was a turner by trade, an inhabitant of Delhi, and his death will come home to the Queen from her having made a sketch of him with her own royal hand.

SATURDAY, 1ST JANUARY.

THERE is hardly an English-knowing reader in the country in whose hands Mr. H. J. S. Cotton's thoughtful and well-written volume on "New India" has not already been. Mr. Cotton in view of the large sale that his excellent book was likely to command, did well to bring out a cheap and neat edition of it. But however bent our kindly-meaning officials may be on making out that we are a few too many educated men in the country, Mr. Cotton's book in English has not had the remotest chance of being read by any thing approaching the bulk of the people, for the simple reason that they do not know the language, and yet it was desirable that they should read it, for it would set them athinking in quite a novel and healthy direction. Actuated by laudable thoughts like this, Babu Rajani Kanta Gupta, the well-known Bengali writer, who has already made his mark in the literature of the country by his masterly work on the great Sepoy War of 1857, and by his excellent little life of Jayadeva, the great lyric poet of Bengal, took upon himself to bring out a Bengali translation of Mr. Cotton's book, and eminently successful have been his efforts, we are glad to note. We cannot help wishing that his style were a little less laboured and lighter so as to suit the taste and capabilities of the bulk of his readers; but there would probably be difficulties in the way of the translator which the critic has little means of estimating, and which would render all attempts at smooth yet literal translation almost an impossibility. The time has not perhaps yet come when the "translation literature" of Bengal may, owing to novelty of ideas and the poverty of the current vocabulary, be made as rich as that of England, France or Germany. Babu Rajani Kanta Gupta is, therefore, to be heartily congratulated on his marked success in the difficult task he had voluntarily undertaken, and for his efforts at popularising the sound and philanthropic views of Mr. Cotton on Indian matters. We may add that the get up of the little book is very good and that it is priced at the low figure of ten annas only, An Urdu translation of the work is, we understand, in progress.

OUR readers will remember how some time back the British authorities at Hyderabad for 'political' reasons brought about the suppression of the *Hyderabad Record*. We are told an appeal was preferred to His Excellency the Viceroy during his Excellency's late visit at Hyderabad and His Excellency has overruled the order of suppression and sanctioned its re-appearance. The re-appearance, we are informed, will take place on the third of January.

The Hindu population of Moneerampur, near Barrackpur, have petitioned the Commander-in-Chief for the removal of the Government slaughter house in Moneerampur.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(SESSION 1886-7.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *4th Inst.*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Thermometers (concluded.)

PRACTICAL CLASS in Physics under Babu Jagadish Chunder Bose, B. Sc., on *Wednesday 5th Inst.*, at 3-30 P. M.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S.J., C.I.E. on *Thursday*, the *6th Inst.*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Chromatic Dispersion.

Admission Fee, in advance, for all the lectures of the Session Rs. 6; for 12 consecutive lectures Rs. 1-8; for a single lecture *Annas* 4.

Only the regular students of the Association will be admitted to the Practical Demonstrations. A separate fee of 4 annas will be charged for each demonstration.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
January 1st, 1887. *Honorary Secretary.*

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1887.

RETROSPECT OF 1886.

THE curtain has dropped over another year. If 1885 is remembered as the year of the Russian scare in India, 1886 may be marked as the year of the Indian scare in Russia. Colonel Lockhart's Mission to Gilgit, the object of which is still a profound secret, created a grave mistrust in the Russian public mind and it was given out that English troops had come over the Chitral Pass and occupied the Afghan Province of Badakshan, which lies directly opposite to Bokhara and not far from Russian Turkistan. Though the report regarding the occupation of to Badakshan was untrue, the Russian suspicion as to the ulterior objects of Colonel Lockhart's Mission was not wholly unfounded. Dir, a small Pathan State beyond Gilgit, was occupied by Shah-ul-Mulk, son of the Chitral Chief, apparently at the instigation of the Government of India. This was one of the results of the Lockhart Mission, and another was the emphatic recognition of the political importance of Chitral, which lies just to the south of the great passes which lead from the the Oxus Valley across the Hindu Kush. During the height of the Indian scare in Russia, the proceedings of the Afghan Delimitation Commission were abruptly brought to a close. A convention was made between the English and the Russian Governments to the effect that demarcation having been concluded as far as Dukchi, the joint Commissions were to be withdrawn, and the remaining thirty-miles of frontier between Dukchi and the Oxus were to be settled between the two Cabinets, the *status quo*, meanwhile, being respected. The sudden conclusion of this convention clearly indicated that a cloud had arisen on the Oxus. Wakhan, or rather part of that province, was claimed by Russia as non-Afghan territory. The arrangement which Lord Granville made with the Russian Government in 1873, had left a loop-hole of which the wily Muscovite did not fail to take advantage. England, however, promptly declared that she would support the Amir of Afghanistan if the Russians persisted in their claim to Wakhan. This declaration foreboded the breaking out of that Central Asian storm which had so often been threatened; but, happily, this apprehension was not realized. As the year closed, it was reported that the negotiations relating to the Afghan frontier were to be shortly re-opened, Sir West Ridgeway and M. Lessar having arrived in London.

The mania for seizing unappropriated islands in the Pacific was as strong among the Great Powers of the world during the past year as it had been in 1885. Early in the year, the United States declared a protectorate over the Samoa Islands, which are situated a little to the east of Fiji, and which, like the latter group, might have been annexed by England. Later in the year, the tri-colour flag of France was hoisted over the New Hebrides. The acquisition of the New Hebrides by the French, with New Caledonia already in their possession, would have brought a large section of the South Pacific between the Fiji Islands and the main land of Australia entirely under French influence. The hoisting of the French flag over the New Hebrides naturally created a great excitement in the Australian colonies, and France was obliged to declare that she had no intention of annexing the Island. Towards the close of the year, it was stated that the difficulties between England and France respecting New Hebrides were in a fair way to settlement, and that France had proposed that neither power should send troops in the Island without the consent of the other. England, not to be behind hand, appropriated the Karmadee group, which is situated about 4 degrees north of New Zealand. She also annexed Socotora and proclaimed a protectorate over the Ellice Group of islands in the West Pacific consisting of nine small islands lying to the North-West of Samoa and containing a total population of about two thousand souls. Germany was very active in Africa during the past year. Dr. Schwarz, who had gone in an official capacity to West Africa in the previous year with a view to explore the interior of the Cameroon region, concluded treaties with several powerful chiefs, by which their lands were placed under the protection of Germany. There was a tragedy on the Somali Coast. The whole of the members of the Italian Commission and Scientific Expedition which had started last spring from Zoulia under the command of Count Perro was murdered by the Amir Abdul Ali at Harrar, and all the Europeans at that place were massacred by the same chief. The news of these massacres created a profound sensation in Europe. The Chinese Government invited the Vatican to send a diplomatic representative to Pekin to guard the interests of the Catholics in China. In doing so, they asserted that the French has used their privilege as protectors of Christians in China to interfere with affairs properly within the sphere of Chinese officials, and had thereby raised a feeling of ill-will and bitterness against the Catholic population in general. The Pope was warned in plain terms that if His Holiness did not agree to supersede France, the Chinese Government would not answer for what might happen. The Pope was willing to accede to the wishes of China, but France began to bully, and as His Holiness desires to attain his ends by peaceful means, he proposed a compromise which the Celestial Government refused to accept. The consequence was a massacre of Christians in North Cochin and Szechnen. The negotiations between England and China regarding the cession of Port Hamilton by the former to the latter were brought to a successful conclusion towards the close of the year. A small portion of the garrison of Madrid revolted in favour of the establishment of a republic in Spain; but the rising was promptly suppressed.

Russia broke with impunity the 59th clause of the Treaty of Berlin, by which the White Czar had declared his intention to make Batoum a free port. The conversion of Batoum from a free port to a naval strong-hold on the Asiatic side of the Black Sea was a menace to Turkey. England, as usual, protested against the infraction; but the St. Petersburgh Cabinet gave no heed to her protest. There was a sudden revolution in Bulgaria which took the world by surprise. Since the union of Roumelia with Bulgaria which Prince Alexander effected with the support of England, Russia had made the ousting of the Prince a point of honour. The motives of the policy which dictated the "war literature" undertaken by the Russians against Turkey in 1877 had long been suspected. The public had long felt that it was to plant Russian outposts across the Danube that the doctrine of a free Bulgaria had been proclaimed. When it was found that a free Bulgaria did not accomplish the Muscovite purposes, the White Czar determined to coerce it. Prince Alexander was suddenly taken prisoner and compelled to abdicate the throne, and he was thereafter escorted out of the country. The revolutionists then called a meeting and resolved to implore the good will of the Czar towards the people of Bulgaria. The proclamation issued by the Provisional Government distinctly stated that the Bulgarian people placed absolute reliance upon the powerful protection of the Czar. Within a week, however, the people received their prince back with shouts of enthusiastic welcome, and it seemed that Muscovite diplomacy had sustained a crushing and humiliating defeat. But the Autocrat of all the Russians was not to be baulked. Germany and Austria refused to countenance Prince Alexander, and England, finding herself isolated and alone, could not do anything for her protege. The Prince being thus utterly helpless, threw himself at the feet of the White Czar who made him resign the throne of Bulgaria. He abdicated a second time, and established a Council of Regency for the conduct of the affairs of the country until the election of his successor. Russia at first refused to recognise the Regency, and did what she could in the direction of coercing it and the people, without absolutely committing herself to anything which would provoke Austrian opposition. The grand Sobranji elected Prince Waldemar of Denmark, the brother-in-law of the Czar, to be Prince Alexander's successor, but he refused to accept the throne of Bulgaria. Russia then put forward Prince Nicholas, of Mingrelia, a hanger-on of the Czar, as her candidate for the Bulgarian throne. Turkey supported the candidature of Prince Nicholas, but the Bulgarians refused to have any thing to do with him, though they were advised by Germany to yield to the wishes of Russia. The Canadian Fisheries controversy at one time assumed a very threatening aspect; but the wearisome prolongation of the dispute defined the issues, and gave time to allow angry feelings to cool down. The Americans insisted on obtaining suitable recognition and enforcement of their rights under treaty, international law, and the laws and commercial usuages of both countries. The question was under consideration when the year closed. Last summer England concluded a convention with China, which introduced a new principle into her Eastern policy. Proud Albion made some remarkable concessions to Chinese *amour propre*, in order to close the dispute occasioned by the establishment of British rule in Upper Burma. Her Majesty's Government admitted the claim of China to suzerainty as based on the decennial tribute mission from Mandalay to Pekin, and agreed to continue this mission at prescribed intervals. The British Government made another concession which though interpreted by Orientals as a most abject surrender to China, was a wise act. The Thibet Mission, after a good deal of money had been spent on the preparations, was wisely countermended. While England made tangible and definite concessions to China, the celestials only gave moral assurances and written promises in return. The Pekin Government engaged to take steps to promote trade between India and Thibet, and to provide trade facilities between Burma and Yunan. The value of England's *quid pro quo* has to be discovered in future, while Chinese diplomacy obtained very valuable acquisitions of which it might well be proud. The rising of the powerful Ghilzai tribe near Ghuzni revealed the extent of the disaffection which prevails in Afghanistan, and the dangers which still surround the position of the Amir Abdur Rahman, whom the Government of India delights to honour as its ally. The out-break occurred almost immediately after the reception of the Afghan Boundary commission by the Amir in his capital, and there was good reason to believe that it was a popular demonstration led against the English alliance by religious fanatics. Prominent among these were the sons of the late Mushk-i-Alam, who caused Sir Frederick Roberts' force to be besiezed at Sherpur in December 1879. The rising was promptly suppressed, but it clearly showed that though the ruler of Afghanistan might coquet with England or Russia, his turbulent and unruly subjects would go their own way.

ENGLAND AT HOME.

In 1886, England saw two complete sessions of Parliament and three Governments in the short space of six months and by a tremendous effort escaped a revolution. The result of the General Election of the previous year had not at all been satisfactory, as neither of the great political parties had secured a majority independent of the Irish Home Rule members. Mr. Parnell had practically become master of the situation, and Her Majesty's Government had been placed entirely at his mercy. Lord Salisbury had, however, resolved not to quit office until expelled by an adverse vote in the House of Commons. Irish questions almost entirely occupied the attention of Parliament during the past year. For a time, Lord Salisbury enjoyed the support of the Parnellites. Shortly after the assembling of Parliament at the beginning of the year, it was announced that Mr. W. H. Smith, the new Irish Secretary, had started for Ireland to conduct an inquiry into the means of coping with outrage and terrorism. Mr. Gladstone as a clever tactician, at once seized the advantage. He gave a broad hint to Mr. Parnell that he was prepared if placed in power, to offer important concessions to the Irish Home Rulers. It was made clear to the Salisbury Ministry, that after Mr. Gladstone's bid, they had no expectation of obtaining the support of the Parnellites. The Liberals and the Parnellites soon combined their forces, and threw out the Conservativove Gernment. Lord Salisbury

having sustained a defeat in the House of Commons resigned, and Mr. Gladstone formed an administration. But many of his former colleagues in view of his attitude towards the Irish separatists, stood aloof. Among them, the most prominent were the Marquis of Hartington, the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Goschen, the late Mr. Forster, Lord Selborne, Lord Northbrook, Sir Henry James, &c., &c. Although Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. (now Sir George) Trevelyan joined the Government, they tendered their resignations as soon as they were made acquainted with the nature of Mr. Gladstone's Irish proposals. These having been matured, and laid in the shape of a Bill to amend the provision for the future Government of Ireland, before the most crowded and excited House of Commons of which we have any record. The Ministerialists were confident that Mr. Gladstone's influence would restore the unity of the Liberal party and his Irish scheme would be carried through the Lower House. The fate of the measure depended on the action of the Unionist Liberals, who were headed by Lord Hartington. No division was challenged on the first reading of the Irish Home Rule Bill. On the second reading, the measure was rejected by a majority of 341 against 311. On the rejection of the Bill, Mr. Gladstone decided to appeal to the country, and felt confident that its verdict would be favourable to him. He, accordingly, dissolved Parliament. A new general election took place, the result of which was hardly more satisfactory than that of the previous one. Neither the Gladstone Liberals nor the Conservatives secured a majority against all other parties combined. The electoral victory was really on the side of the Liberal Unionists, for they held the balance between the two main opposing parties in Parliament. The number of Tory and Unionist Liberal members being more than the Gladstonians and the Parnellites put together, Mr. Gladstone placed his resignation in the hands of the Queen, and it was accepted. Lord Salisbury, having obtained Lord Hartington's promise of support in his Irish policy, formed a cabinet with Lord Randolph Churchill as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. But owing to a hopeless difference of opinion with his chief on the Local Government question, Lord Randolph resigned—a step which seriously damaged the position of the Salisbury Cabinet. At the late General election, three Indian gentlemen—the Hon'ble Dadabhai Nowroji, Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose, and Mr. Nandloll Ghose—sought the suffrages of English constituencies; but, to the great disappointment and sorrow of our countrymen, all of them were defeated. The past year was rendered memorable by the occurrence of socialist riots in London, which were attended with wanton destruction of property in Trafalgar Square, Pall Mall, Piccadilly, Oxford Street, and Regent Street. Strange to say, the Metropolitan Police lamentably failed to deal with the rioters. There were also serious riots at Balfast and other places in Ireland.

INDIA IN ENGLAND.

The number of debates on Indian subjects in Parliament during the past year, was extremely small. Irish questions came up incessantly in both the Houses, and the noble Lords and the hon'ble Commons had no time and attention to spare for other matters. Discussions on foreign, colonial, and Indian affairs were equally rare and spiritless. In the course of the debate on the Address at the commencement of the Session in February, Professor Hunter moved an amendment condemning the charge on the Indian revenues for the Burmese war. The motion raised the important issue of the exercise of a real and effective control on the part of the House of Commons over the foreign policy of the Government. Professor Hunter contended that the expedition against Burma had been undertaken in disregard of the statutory provisions which were intended to secure Parliamentary control over such matters. It was argued on behalf of the Government that the requirements of the law had been complied with, as there was no necessity for the Ministry to submit their policy to the decission of the House of Commons before resorting to war; and that the only question to be laid before Parliament was whether the expense of the military operations was to be borne by the Indian revenues or not. Mr. Gladstone who took part in the debate pertinently observred that if the contention of the Government were correct, the position not only of the English but of the Indian tax-payers would be most deplorable. Lord Randolph Churchill was, however, able to show that when the Liberals were in office, they had pursued the same course that was followed by the Salisbury Cabinet in regard to the Burmese war. The net result of the discussion was to demonstrate the truth of the remark, that so far at least as unrepresented and dumb India was concerned, Liberals and Conservatives profess different principles, but they both do the same thing. Later in the Session, there were debates in both the Houses on the annexation of Burma. Although the discussions were quite unworthy of the subject, and utterly disappointing, they were not resultless. They brought to strong relief, the great difference between the views of men in office and in opposition. In the course of the debate raised by Professor Hunter, of which mention has been made above, Mr. Gladstone had argued with great force and remarkable ability that in directing the employment of Indian troops in upper Burma without the previous sanction of Parliament, Her Majesty's Government had acted contrary to law. When Mr. Gladstone propounded this doctrine, he was in opposition and had probably no idea at the time that he would be recalled to power in a few weeks. On the occasion of the debate upon the annexation of Burma, the Grand Old Man was Prime minister and leader of the House of Commons. This being the case, the representatives of the India Office in the two Houses felt the embarrassment of discussing the question without either accepting or rejecting the arguments which had been adduced by their Chief in the previous debate. In the Upper House Lord Kimberley very dexterously sought to extricate himself from the dilemma by saying that as the Liberal Government could not be said to have acted upon either interpretation of the Act of 1858, it was not necessary for him to enquire which was the right one. In the Lower House, Sir A. Kay-Shuttleworth repeated the same view, and Mr. Gladstone, avoiding the legal question altogether, confined himself to dealing with the arguments which had been urged against annexation and to an attempt to show that the war had not been undertaken in the interests of British trade. In doing this, Mr. Gladstone forgot that when Lord Randolph Churchill was at the head of the India Office, his Lordship did not care to conceal his opinion that the annexation of Burma would offer an extraordinary development to British manufactures and commerce by throwing new markets open. Mr. Gladstone contended that annexation was required for the safety of our own frontier and people, but he conveniently ignored the fact that if this argument were carried to its logical conclusion, Afghanistan should be incorporated with the British Empire without any delay. Sir Joseph Pease's annual motion directed to the suppression of the Indian Opium traffic was, as usual, laid before the House of Commons. The new convention with China having deprived Sir Joseph of his stock argument touching the wickedness of corrupting the guileless Chinaman, he had no other resource left him than to fall back upon his argument as to the immorality of the whole business. Strange to say, he did not feel it his duty to attack the revenue derived from Malwa opium, but held that the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium in Bengal were contrary to the precepts of the Christian religion. Sir Richard Temple and Mr. Lewis McIver effectually answered Sir Joseph Pease. The former pointed out that as the Chinese were determined to use opium, which they had to do if they chose, it was better that they should consume the first-rate Indian drug than the second rate indigenous article. Mr. McIver said that the abandonment of the opium traffic would cause a loss of seven millions to India, the English people, if they wanted to be virtuous by putting an end to the immoral traffic, they should do so at the cost of the British tax-payers. The debate suddenly collapsed as the House was "counted out." The Indian Budget, which does not, even under favourable circumstances, excite much interest in the House of Commons, was treated last year with less consideration than usual. It was introduced in the "last hours of a moribund Parliament." The debate on the Budget was so tame and disappointing that many of the London papers did not even notice it. The Select Committee for inquiring into the Government of India from which our countrymen had expected so much, came to nothing. In March last, the House of Lords appointed a committee of fifteen members and sent a message to the Lower House to appoint their committee. The motion was, however, opposed in the House of Commons by, strange to say, Lord Randolph Churchill, who had himself been the first to propose that there should be a real and comprehensive inquiry into the working of the Government of India's Act. Notwithstanding Lord Randolph's opposition, had the Liberal Government moved the appointment of the Committee in the House of Commons, they would have been able to carry it with their majority. But they did not care to do so. Mr. Gladstone had from the first taken only a step-fatherly interest in the whole matter, and he was too busily occupied with the Irish question to think of the voiceless and helpless millions of India. After the assembling of the new Parliament in August, Burmese affairs again received some attention in the House of Commons. Mr. Samuel Smith moved an amendment to the Address, expressing regret at the continuance of the war in Burma and the great extension of military operations occasioned thereby, and humbly representing to Her Majesty that the expenses of the war should not be borne exclusively by India. The debate raised by this motion covered the whole question of the war in, and the annexation of, Upper Burma. But as both Liberals and Conservatives had identified themselves with the policy pursued in Upper Burma, Mr. Smith's amendment only received the support of independent Radicals, and it was rejected by a large majority.

The British public being absorbed with the Irish question and the political situation in the Balkan Peninsula, the attention which Indian affairs received outside Parlament was equally small. The English periodical Press, however, published some important articles on India during the past year. The most remarkable of these were Mr John Slagg's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* on the National Indian Congress, which met in Bombay in December 1885, and Mr. Samuel Smith's paper in the *Contemporary Review* for June. The two able and thoughtful lectures on the Poverty of India which Mr. Slagg had delivered before the Junior Reform Club of Manchester during the Electoral compaign of 1885 were published in pamphlet form. Indian affairs were rarely discussed on the platform during the past year. The only notable exceptions were Lord Ripon's address to the members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which his lordship dealt at some length with the question of Indian finance and taxation, and Lord Harris's speech at Manchester in which he hinted at the possibility of reimposing the cotton duties. Lord Ripon, as might have been expected, sought to vindicate his fiscal policy and the remission of taxation which was effected during his reign. The slight hope which had been excited by Lord Harris's utterances was dashed to the ground by Sir John Gorst's statement in the House of Commons that neither the Home Government nor the Government of India contemplated the reimposition of the cotton duties. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, during his stay in England, delivered some very remarkable lectures on the economic financial condition of this country. The Indo-Colonial Exhibition revealed to the British public the resources of England's greatest Dependency. Her Gracious Majesty took deep interest in the Hindusthani craftsmen who had been taken to the Exhibition, and made a sketch of one of them with her own hand. The Exhibition suggested to the Prince of Wales the idea of commemorating the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign by the establishment of an Imperial Institute.

PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT.

The seal of the Indian office twice changed hands during the past year. On the fall of the Lord Salisbury's stop-gap Ministry and the consequent return of the Liberals to power in February, the India office, to the great sorrow of the

people of this country, was again entrusted to the tender mercies of Lord Kimberly. At the same time, Sir A. Kay-Suttleworth succeeded Lord Harris as Parliamentary Under-Secretary. He did not, however, long remain at the India Office. He was soon promoted to a higher post and was succeededby Mr. Stafford Howard. When Mr. Gladstone resigned and Lord Salisbury undertook to form an Administration, it was generally hoped that Lord Randolph Churchill would resume his post at the India office. But this hope was not realized. It is notorious that in the United Kingdom, Ministerial appointments are dictated by party considerations. If Lord Salisbury had wished to entrust the portfolio of Indian affairs to the Tory statesman who was best fitted for the work, his choice would have fallen upon no other person than the Earl of Iddesliegh, formerly Sir Stafford Northcote. But the exegencies of party politics would not allow of this being done. As Sir Richard Cross preferred a claim to be included in the Cabinet and as no other post of Cabinet rank could be found for him, he was pitchforked into the India office with a peerage. Sir John Gorst, who had for some reason or other, incurred the displeasure of his former patron, Lord Randolph Churchill, was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Mr. Ilbert, the Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council, resigned his post before the close of the term of his office, and Mr. A. Scoble, formerly Advocate General of Bombay, was selected to fill his place. Sir Steuart Bayley, the Home Member, went home on six months' sick leave—the only leave to which a member of the Executive Council is entitled under the rules, and Mr. J. B. Peile, of the Bombay Council, was chosen to be his *locum tenens*. It was, however, announced that on the expiry of Sir Steuart's leave, Sir Charles Aitchison would be permanently appointed to the post of Home Minister. This announcement was received with universal satisfaction. General Elliott Hughes the Military Member of the Viceroy's Council, having died, General George Chesney, the accomplished author of *Indian Polity*, was selected to fill the vacancy, and a better selection could not possibly have been made. Sir M. E. Grant-Duff's term of office having come to a close, the Hon'ble Mr. Bourke for whom no suitable place could be found in the new Conservative Ministry, was appointed Governor of the Madras Presidency. It was settled that Sir Steuart Bayley, on return from leave, would be elevated to the Bengal *Musnad* on the retirement of Sir Rivers Thompson in thespring, and it was reported that Sir Lepel Griffin would succeed Sir Charles Aitchison as Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, and its De-pendencies about the same time. This report hasnot, however, yet been confirmed. The Chief Commands of Madras, and Bombay, and the Chief Justiceships of Bengal, and the North-Western Provinces also changed hands during the past year. Sir Herbert Macpherson was placed at the head of the Army of the Southern Presidency and Sir Charles Arbuthnot of that of the Western Presidency. On the death of Sir Herbert Macpherson in Burma, Sir Charles Arbuthnot was transferred to Madras and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was placed at the head of the Bombay army. Sir Richard Garth, having been induced to relinquish the Chief Justiceship of Bengal in order to obviate the necessity of an acting appointment, Sir Comer Petheram was translated to the Calcutta High Court,being succeeded at Allahabad, by Sir John Edge. In the minor provinces, there were no changes in the *Personnel* of Government.

FINANCIAL.

The financial position of the Empire occupied a great deal of public attention during the past year. Towards the close of 1885, it had been announced that the Government of India, improving upon Randolph Churchill's idea of an extended license-tax, had decided to re-impose the "odious" income-tax, as the late Sir Henry Durand justly characterised it. In the first week of the new year, Sir Auckland Colvin introduced into the Viceroy's Legislative Council a Bill which proposed the imposition of a tax of four pies in the rupee on all incomes of Rs. 500 and upwards and of five pies in the rupee on incomes above Rs. 2,000 a year. The proper course would have been to have laid the Income Tax Bill before the Council along with the annual Budget. If that course had been followed, the public would have got due facilities for discussing the financial situation. But in the absence of the Financial statement, the public was placed at a great disadvantage. Sir Auckland Colvin's speech, in support of his measure, though able, clear, lucid and pointed, was devoted more to the explanation of the circumstances which had necessitated the introduction of fresh taxation and of the form that had been given to it than to meet objections. The Bill was, of course, passed, although the history of direct taxations in India had conclusively established the utter unsuitability of that form of taxation to the circumstances of the country. In order to reconcile the public to the imposition of additional burdens, the Viceroy announced in the course of the debate on the Income Tax Bill, that the Government of India had decided upon the appointment of a Commission of Inqury into all branches of expenditure with a view to retrenchment. The promised Commission, however, soon dwindled into a Committee composed of officials with only one exception. The composition of the Committee and the instructions given to it did not justify the public in expecting any substantial result from its labour. The Committee mainly devoted its attention to the revision of the Provincial contracts and recommended large reductions in the Provincial assignments. The enquiries of the Committee have not yet been completed, the work entrusted to it and the debates on the Income Tax Bill naturally discounted the interest of the annual Budget, which was a very common-place affair. The Financial Statement for 1886-87 was, for the fourth time in succession, published in the shape of a Minute by the Finance Minister; it was the darkest picture of the kind yet drawn. The accounts of 1884-85 showed a deficit of £386,446, and the Revised Estimates of 1885-86 exhibited a deficit of nearly 3 millions, while the Budget Estimates for 1886-87 reckoned upon a small surplus of £182,200. The only hopeful feature in the Financial Statement was that Sir Auckland Colvin emphatically recognised the great importance of solving the silver difficulty in a satisfactory manner. He announced that the Government of India had called the Secretary of State's earnest attention to the subject, and that it was pressing upon him the absolute necessity of seeking, in concert with the powers of Europe and the United States, for an effectual remedy for the continued fall in the gold value of silver. The Finance Minister distinctly spoke of the Budget of 1886-87 as experimental, and added that greater experience must be awaited before it could be assumed that the new scale of resources was adequate to the new scale of requirements. The future of Indian finance, as disclosed in the Budget of 1886-87 was gloomy in the extreme. The Financial Statement proved to demonstration the grave unwisdom of the course which Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring had followed in remitting the import duties and reducing the salt tax in 1882. It was made as clear as the sun at noonday that the wanton sacrifice of revenue which these measures involved had permanently crippled the finances of the Empire. The only ray of hope was furnished by the fact that towards the close of the year the Home Government, at the repeated requests of the Government of India, appointed a Royal Commission to consider and report on the silver question.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Imperial Legislative mill was fairly active during the past year. Of the Income Tax Bill, with which the business of the session commenced, we have already spoken. Besides the Income Tax Act, the only important measure passed by the Supreme Legislative Council was the Oudh Rent Act. The object of this measure was to amend the Oudh Rent Act of 1868 which, it will be remembered, was based on a "compromise" proposed by Sir John Strachey, then Chief Commissioner at Lucknow on behalf of Government and accepted by the late Maharaja Maun Singh on behalf of the Taluqdars. The compromise had been brought about by the Taluqdars agreeing to make certain concessions to one class of their tenantry—the descendants of old proprietors—on the distinct understanding that the Government should never again claim right of occupancy for the ryots of Oudh. The Taluqdars had made this concession in a spirit of generosity, although the sifting inquiry instituted by Sir Henry Davies under the orders of Lord Lawrence had clearly shown that no rights of occupancy existed in Oudh. The arrangement had been sanctioned by the Government of India, and the Secretary of State had spoken in high terms of the magnanimous conduct of the Taluqdars. An amendment of the Act of 1868 had doubtless become necessary, but not in the form in which it was made. The provisions of Mr. Quinton's Bill were open to grave objections and calculated to sweep away the guaranteed rights of the land-holding classes. The Bill gave all tenants in Oudh—the small class of occupancy tenants who were already protected by law excepted, a statutory right of occupation for seven years, from the date of the last settlement of the rent or holding, at the rent which they were paying at the date of the passing of the Act; and it gave to landlords the power to enhance at the end of that period up to one anna per rupee or 6¼ per cent. The Government thus by one stroke of the pen introducedoccupancy rights in a novel form into Oudh, and deprived the Taluqdars of the power of enhancement. These provisions involved a direct violation of the solemn engagements into which the British Government had entered with the Taluqdars in the time of Lord Canning. But this consideration had naturally no weight with a Legislature which had eighteen months before passed the Bengal Tenancy Act, which laid the axe at the root of the Permanent Settlement. Two short Bills for amending the North-Western Provinces Rent Act and Land Revenue Acts, respectively, were carried through the Council, but they were not measures of much importance. The annexation of Theebaw's dominions rendered it necessary to declare the law in force in Burma, and a Bill with that object was passed. The fort and town of Jhansi having been ceded by the Maharaja Scindia to the British Government in exchange for Morar, legislation was required for the annexation of the territory to the Jhansi district and for the assimilation of the law in force therein to that in force in the district, and this was done. The Oudh Wasikas Act declared the allowances respectively known as Amanat Wasikas, the Zamanat Wasikas and the Loan Wasikas to be pensions within the meaning of the Pensions Act of 1871. This measure was regarded with grave distrust in the absence of any clear statement of the circumstances which had necessitated it. It was suspected that the real object of the Act was to carry the balances that had occurred under the Bahu Begum's trust to the credit of the treasury. And the suspicion was confirmed by the fact that fifteen years ago, an unsuccessful attempt had been made by the Financial Department to appropriate, or rather misappropriate, these balances. The Indian Copy right Bill, which had been published in the previous year was practically merged into the larger international measure contemplated by the British Parliament. A large number of Bills were brought forward last year, and some of them became law before its close. The most important of these were the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill, the Provincial Small Cause Courts Bill, the Guardian and Wards Bill, the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act Amendment Bill, The Punjab Tenancy and Land Revenue Bills, the Bankruptcy Bill and the Debtors Bill. In introducing the Bankruptcy Bill, Mr. Ilbert distinctly stated that the Government of India had decided not to abolish imprisonment for debt in this country. But shortly afterwards, he brought forward a Bill for doing away with such imprisonment in the North Western Provinces, on the ground that the Local Government and the High Court were in favour of the abolition. Mr. Ilbert's views with regard to the gradual abolition of imprisonment for debt excited much opposition throughout the country as it was felt that their adoption would make the execution of money decrees almost impossible. It was pointed out that at present any dishonest man might transfer his whole property by a secret deed and go on for years getting credit on the outward show of possessing means of payment which he had long ago parted with. The Debtors Bill was unanimously condemned in the strongest terms by the Indian Press. The Bengal Legislative Council was, as usual very active,

At the beginning of the Sessions, a Bill was introduced for the purpose of amending the village Chowkidari Act. This measure professed to remedy certain defects in the existing law; but its real object was to bring the village watchmen entirely under the control of the regular police and thus withdraw the small modicum of local Self-Government, which had been conferred upon the people in the rural tracts by Act VI. of 1870 (B. C.) The violent opposition offered to the Bill led to the abandonment of some of its most objectionable features, and it was passed in a modified but not in an inoccuous form. Towards the end of the past session, the Calcutta Municipal Amalgamation Bill was introduced, and on the opening of the current session it was referred to a Select Committee. Sir Rivers Thompson announced the practical abandonment of the Patwari Bill and stated that the Permanent Tenures Bill would not be proceeded with, funless the Zemindars desired that this should be done.

POLITICAL.

The most important political event of the past year was, of course, the annexation of Upper Burma; for this step the Indian public had been fully prepared. It had been known that no considerations of justice, morality or international law would deter the Government from acquiring a territory as large as France, where English gentlemen of the middle, and the lower middle, classes, might obtain lucrative appointments, and where English merchants might carry on a profitable business. There can be no doubt the primary object of the invasion of Upper Burma was to promote the interests of Englishmen, and that annexation was the only means by which this object could be best attained. When Theebaw was deposed and deported from the country, the people naturally expected that another prince of the Alompra dynasty would be placed on the throne. After the fall of Mandalay, therefore, for a while the Burmese awaited the decision of Government. But when the incorporation of their country with the British Empire was announced, they organized serious resistance to the British arms. The people, unable to meet the English in pitched battles, commenced a guerrilla warfare. This situation rendered military operations on an extensive scale necessary for the pacification of the country. Re-inforcements in large numbers were sent to Upper Burma, and the fiat went forth that it must be pacified by April next, but how far it will be carried out remains to be seen. The affairs of Gwalior, Indore, Bhupal and Kashmir occupied much attention during the past year. On the death of the Maharaja Jyaji Rao Scindiah, his minor son was placed on the *guddi* and a Council of Regency consisting of seven members was created under the presidency of Sir Ganpat Rao Khudkey, the trusted Prime Minister of the deceased chief, to administer the affairs of the State during the minority of the young Maharaja. It was arranged that the Council of Regency would, in all important matters, act in consultation with the British Resident; in other words, the Resident became the *de facto* ruler of the state. In Indore, too, there was a change in the head of the Durbar. The Maharaja Tukaji Rao Holkar having succumbed to an attack of diabetes, his eldest son, the Bala Saheb, was selected to succeed him. The new ruler's career had an auspicious beginning in the introduction of many reforms in the system of administration. Early in the year, Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal paid a visit to Calcutta with a view to lay her case personally before the Viceroy, the management of the state having been temporarily entrusted to our distinguished townsman Nawab Abdul Luteef KhanBahadoor. Later in the year, Colonel Ward, of the Central Provinces Commission, was appointed Prime Minister of Bhopal, although the Governor-General's Agent for India and the Foreign Office spoke in very high terms of the manner in which Nawab Abdul Lateef had discharged the delicate duties of his difficult post. It was said the Begum herself was in favour of the appointment of an European Prime Minister; but the officer on whom her choice had fallen—Colonel Saurin Brooke, also of the Central Provinces Commission, was not only not given the post, but was reprimanded and reduced in grade for having meddled in Bhopal affairs. The Maharaja of Kashmir too, visited the Viceroy in Calcutta at the commencement of the past year. His Highness went back to his dominions with a fixed determination to set his house in order. With the advice and assistance of his able Finance Minister, Babu Nilambar Mookerjee, he at once began to make earnest and strenuous efforts to introduce the necessary reforms in the administration of his state. Many obnoxious taxes and imposts were abolished, and all restrictions on trade were removed. Several important changes in the revenue and judicial systems were also effected. These reforms naturally excited the opposition of officials of the old school. The opponents gradually grew in strength and at last succeeded in obtaining complete ascendency over the Maharaja. When Babu Nilambar Mookerjee found that it was impossible for him to carry out the reforms on which he had set his heart, he felt it his duty to throw up his post, and his resignation was reluctantly accepted by his master, who was personally very kind to him. Maharaja Dhuleep Singh, in his journey from England to India, which he had undertaken with the permission of Government, was stopped at Aden and sent back to Europe. This step was taken because the Maharaja had, previous to his departure from England, renounced Christianity, repudiated his Christian wife, re-embraced the faith of his ancesters, and issued a proclamation to the Sikh Community announcing his intended return to India. Such a high-handed measure was not necessary, as the Maharaja might have been allowed to reside any where in Southern India without doing the slightest harm. The fortress of Gwalior and the cantonment of Morar were evacuated last year in accordance with the Treaty which had been concluded with the late Maharaja Scindiah towards the close of the previous year. The Viceroy's autumn tour was productive of good results. His Excellency visited Baroda, Mysore, Hyderabad the frontier state of Bhawalpur. At Hyderabad, he succeeded in effecting a reconciliation between the Nizam and his Prime Minister, Nawab Salar Jang.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

Few important measures relating to the internal administration of the Empire were carried out during the past year. The Viceroy was too busy with Burma affairs to attend to anything else. One or two matters under this head demand notice. Lord Dufferin wisely reversed the policy of his predecessor in regard to the jail labour question. Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring had, in their anxiety to encourage private enterprise, sought to practically suppress all jail manufactures in India. They had laid down the broad principle that prisoners should be chiefly employed extra-murally and suggested that their labour should be utilized in large public works conducted directly by the state, or through the agency of private enterprise. This measure, happily, did not find favour with the India Office, which directed the Government of India to reopen and reconsider the question. The Resolution issued by Lord Dufferin's Government provided that jail manufactures were to be restricted only where it could be proved that local industries were being injured. In accordance with the views expressed by the Prison Conference which met in Calcutta in 1877, the Government of India held that if the labour of prisoners were devoted chiefly to the production of the articles required by the various state departments, no serious question need arise as to the competition of Jails with private trade. The proposal made by Sir George Campbell, when Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for levying a tax on Wards Estates to recover the cost of the time devoted by Government officers in supervising their management was finally set at rest last year. Lord Ripon's Government had, on a full consideration of the matter, pronounced against the proposal, and this view was adopted by the Secretary of State who held that the existing system of charging rates upon Wards Estates should not be modified. But the most important administrative measure of the past twelve months was the appointment of the Public Service Commission under the presidency of Sir Charles Aitchison. The question of the admission of Natives of India to the Covenanted Civil Service under 21 and 22 Vic., Chap. 106, and of their appointment under the Act of 1870 to offices formerly reserved exclusively to members of that service, was referred to the commission for consideration and report. But all questions connected with the conditions on which English candidates are admitted to the Indian Civil Service examination in England were excluded from the scope of the enquiry entrusted to the commission. The Government of Lord Dufferin distinctly stated in their Resolution regarding the appointment of the Commission that any scheme for the admission of Indians to higher employment in the public service to be entirely satisfactory would require Parliamentary legislation hereafter. This expression of opinion naturally created a strong suspicion in the Indian mind that the real object which the Government of India sought to attain by the appointment of the Commission was to close the ordinary Covenanted Civil Service to the Indian subjects of Her Majesty by law—a measure which Lord Lytton had unsuccessfully endeavoured to carry out when creating the statutory Civil Service. The expression of this distrust in the Indian newspapers greatly offended Lord Dufferin, who spoke warmly on the subject in reply to the address of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha. The Commission commenced its work on the 15th ultimo at Lahore and was holding its sitting at Allahabad when the year closed. The question of promoting technical education occupied much attention during the past year. A Memorandum on the subject containing numerous suggestions for this purpose was prepared in the Home Department and circulated for the opinion of the Local Governments. The suggestions did not contain any thing particularly important or striking or business-like.

PROVINCIAL.

The General Administration of the Provinces during the past year proceeded on the lines already laid down, and except in Madras, there was not much to distinguish it from the ordinary run of events. In the Southern Presidency, scandal after scandal cropped up. Early in the year, Mr. Crole, Collector of Madura, was suspended for twelve months, for having brought, the Hon'ble Mr. Sullivan's connections with the Riching's estate, to the notice of his official superiors. The Secretary of State held that Mr. Sullivan had a substantial interest in the estate in question, and that Mr. Crole had done right in calling the attention of Government to it. Nevertheless, Lord Kimberly punished Mr. Crole with six months' suspension. His Lordship directed that Mr. Crole should be restored to a post of corresponding rank to that from which he had been suspended; but this order was not carried out by the Madras Government. The Garstin Dacoity case, which arose out of the Crole affair, created another grand scandal. Mr. Garstin, one of the Members of the Board of Revenue, having been dacoited, a prosecution followed. This case was fortunately tried in the Madras High Court. In this case the Government, and not the accused Zemindar, was on its trial, and the verdict of the jury was a practical impeachment of Sir M. E. Grant-Duff and his administration. The Minor Zemindar of Gantamain Kanur, who was a ward of the Court of Wards, made a statement to Mr. Garstin regarding the dacoity. He said that three persons—the Bodainai Kamer Zemindar, Mr. Kota Swami Tever and Mr. Crole—were implicated in the dacoity, the first named directly, and the other two as accessories. The whole of these accusations at the trial fell through, and then arose two other cases. Mr. Tever brought a criminal case against the Minor Zemindar for defamation, and a civil suit against Mr. Garstin for damage for libel in the criminal case. For his utter failure as Governor of Madras, Mr. M. E. Grant-Duff was created an Extra Grand Commander of the Star of India. He signalised the close of his reign by recording a long Minute reviewing his administration of the Southern Presidency. His departure, however, was hailed by all classes of the community as a great relief, and the new Governor, Mr. Bourke, made an auspicious beginning Lord Reay continued to do good work in the Bombay Presidency. His Lorpship showed his strong sense of justice and impartiality by sending back to his regiment, Lieutenant Salman, who had, as Assistant Political Agent of Kattywar, in trying a case, grossly misbehaved himself on the Judicial bench.

In Bengal, the past year witnessed the introduction of the Local Self-Government Scheme. The rules framed by the Bengal Government provided for the election of two-thirds of the members of each Local Board, and the Boards were empowered to elect their Chairman, and Vice-Chairman from among the members. In the case of District Boards, however, it was announced that the Lieutenant-Governor would in all cases appoint the Magistrate to be Chairman of the Board. His Honor considered this arrangement absolutely necessary to ensure success in the initiation of the new scheme. The Local Self-Government Scheme, as finally introduced into this Province, as in other provinces, was a solemn farce. It meant that the people would be allowed to manage their pounds, patshalas, and berries, and to make and mend their roads and drains provided the Magistrate of the district and the Commissioner of the division did not think them incapable ofdoing so. The report of the Salaries Commission, was submitted, but no action was taken upon it before the close of the year. Effect was given to some of the recommendations made by the Excise Commission, and Central distilleries were re-established at some of the larger towns. The Lieutenant-Governor did not, however, think it necessary to lay down any general rule in reply to the Commissioners' suggestion, that stills should be grouped outside the inhabited parts of the town, and that care should be taken in the selection of retail shops within the town. The excise staff was strengthened in several of the most important districts, and all shops were prohibited, under heavy penalties, from supplying liquor to children under 12 years of age, and ordered to be closed at nightfall. Sir Rivers Thompson's proposal to establish a veterinary school for Bengal was vetoed by the Government of India. In pursuance of the policy recommended by the Education Commission, the Bengal Government announced its determination to close the Midnapore and Berhampore Colleges, if no arrangement could be made before the 1st of May next for the transfer of their charge to bodies of Native gentlemen. With a view to encourage English education among the Mahomedan community, forty special scholarships were provided for Mahomedan students, and the local officers were directed to employ Mahomedans more largely in ministerial offices at their disposal. The Gibbons case clearly showed the real character of the local contracts under which coolies work in the tea-gardens of Assam and forcibly indicated the necessity of amending Act I. of 1882, which our lamented predecessor had justly characterised as the slave Law when the measure was before the Legislative Council. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the most important event of the past year was the constitution of a local Legislative Council for the Province. Sir Alfred Lyall took up in earnest the question of establishing a university in his satrapy, and to enable him to carry out this measure, his term of office was extended by six months. In other respects, he merely performed the routine work of the administration. There were serious riots at Etawah between Hindus and Mahomedans, as also at Delhi, Umballa and other places in the Punjab. Sir Charles Aitchison carried on the administration of his satrapy in the same liberal and enlightened spirit as before. In the minor provinces nothing of importance occurred during the past year. The National Association founded by the Countess of Dufferin with the noble object of supplying female medical aid to the women of India made fair progress during the past year. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, accompanied by the Duchess, returned to India towards the close of the year to serve in the Army. The Bengal National League was formed for the purpose of promoting, by all constitutional methods, the introduction of a representative element into the Government of the country. To carry out this great work, the League appointed a strong executive council under the presidency of Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore. The Indian Association for the cultivation of science did, as usual, useful work during the past twelve months. The Oriental Congress met at Vienna and regret was freely and generally expressed at the absence therefromofDr. Rajendralal Mitra. If the learned Doctor had been present at the Congress, he would have been most cordially welcomed by the distinguished Orientalists of other countries assembled there, and he would have found that his reputation had preceded him. To the satisfaction of all right-minded persons, the Government of India, towards the close of the past year, pronounced against legislation as a cure for the evils of infant marriage and 'enforced' widowhood. The supreme Government rightly held that the reforms advocated by Mr. B. M. Malabari must be left to the improving influences of time and to the gradual operation of the mental and moral development of the people by the spread of education. The closing week of the year was rendered memorable by the assembling of the second Indian National Congress in Calcutta under the presidency of Mr. Dadabhai Nowroja. Its proceedings demonstrated the fact that, however widely the various sections of the Indian community differed in particular questions, there was an absolute unanimity of views among them on all vital and important matters, such as the reorganisation of the Legislative Councils.

CALCUTTA.

The municipal affairs of the metropolis occupied a good deal of public attention during the past year, though, of course, they did not excite such bitter controversies as they had done in the two previous years. Early in the year, the question of appointing a whole-time Health Officer for the town came up for the discussion and the interest taken in the matter by the representatives of the Health Society gave it a peculiar significance. Dr. Simpson, a young man of no experience worth naming, who had never been to India, and knew nothing of the wants, wishes and the peculiar circumstances, climatic, physical, social, religious and domestic, of India, was chosen for the post, in disregard of the strong claims of Dr. K. D. Ghose, who had the widest knowledge of the wants of its people, and who had devoted his whole professional life to carrying out the principles of sanitation for the amelioration of the health of his countrymen. The project to establish two slaughter-houses on the side of two of the largest and most frequented streets in the the Northern Division of the town, created a ferment in Hindu Calcutta; and the rejection of the proposal allayed the excitement. Negotiations for the transfer of the Calcutta Public Library to the Town Corporation were set on foot and made some progress; but the question had not been settled before the year closed. Native Calcutta was alarmed by a suggestion made by the new Health Officer of the town to revert to the system of certificates for the disposal of the dead as provided in the Municipal Act of 1876. An influential and enthusiastic public meeting was held last summer in the Town Hall to protest against the annual migration of the Supreme and Local Governments to the hills. The leaders of all classes of the community, European and Indian took part in the proceedings, and gave full expression to the public feeling on the subject. Another most successful meeting was held in the same place in the closing days of the year to give a public and cordial welcome to the delegates to the National Congress from the various parts of the country. The *ghi* scare created much excitement among the Hindu community of the metropolis. The *Statesman* libel case, for obvious reasons, was watched with great interest by educated Indans. The abandonment of the prosecution after Mr. Robert Knight's acquittal by the majority of the jury on the first trial was a wise act.

OBITUARY.

It is now our painful duty to record the names of the eminent men who were gathered to their fathers during the past year, and the list is, unhappily, a long one. Two of the most important feudatory Chiefs of India—the Maharaja Jyaji Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja Tukaji Holkar of Indore—died within a few days of each other. Their deaths left gaps in the ranks of the Native Princes which will never be filled. The Maharajas of Kernobe and Manipore also died last year. The death of the last-mentioned chief was followed by disturbances in his state, which were promptly suppressed. Many other distinguished Indians were gathered to their fathers during the past twelve months. In Bengal, the Indian Community had to mourn the loss of Babus Akhoykumar Dutt, Dwarkanath Vidyabhoosun, Prasanno Kumar Sarbadhikari, Rajkrishna Mookerjee, Srinath Ghose, Sagore Dutt, and Raja Harendra Krishna; in Behar, the loss of the Maharani of Tikari and Babu Harbans Sahai; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, that of Munshi Kali Prosad, and in the Punjab, the deaths of Pundit Ram Narayan and Lala Sriram. Many well-known Anglo-Indians died during the past year. Among these may be mentioned Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Henry Ricketts, Sir George Yule, Mr. James Gibbs, Dr. William Kay, Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Edward Thomas, the great Numismatist. Europe lost a numismate historian in Professor Van Ranke and a distinguished Statesman in Signor Minghelli, who was one of the most prominent figures in Italian politics from the beginning of Pius IX's pontificate down to 1876. America lost General Arthur, ex-Resident of the United States, and England two of her well-known Liberal Statesmen—Lord Cardwell and Mr. W. E. Foster.

CONCLUSION.

The above is necessarily an imperfect retrospect of the past year. It was a year of war, anxiety and sorrow. May the new year under God's blessing prove more prosperous and happy.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE efforts of those who undertook to hold, in Calcutta, during the past week a convention of the representatives of the leading races of India, for the purpose of considering matters of national interest have been crowned with complete success. The gathering was in every sense a national one. It comprised delegates from all parts of India. From Peshawar to Chittagong and from the foot of the Himalayas to the South of Madras no part of the country was left unrepresented. The stalwart Sikh, the sturdy Pathan, the proud Rajput, the hardy Marhatta, the amiable Madrasi, and the versatile Parsi mixed freely with the sons of Bengal in brotherly emulation to serve their native land, and the good feeling which prevailed was all that could be desired. The men were the flower of India's intellectual aristocracy,—not the mere accidents of wealth, but the legitimate issue of superior wisdom and cultivated understanding. They were in every sense what Lord Beaconsfield calls "men of light and leading." Altogether there were present about 400 delegates. They came from the Punjab, from the North Western Provinces, from Bombay, from Madras and from different parts of the Bengal Presidency. Strenuous efforts were made by some evil-minded people of influence to alienate from the project the sympathy of the Mahomedan section of the Indian community; but to no avail. The sons of Islam as cordially responded to the call of duty to their native country as the Hindus and the other sections of our community, and the zeal and earnestness with which a gentleman from Dera Ismael Khan spoke at the Congress showed the unanimity of feeling which prevailed among the delegates. The Muhammadans of Oudh were represented by one of their leading chiefs, Nawab Reza Ali Khan and Behar sent several, the total number of Mahammadan gentlemen present being 37. Such a gathering was possible only under British rule, and the system of higher education which prevails under it. A Yudhishthir, an Asoka, or an Akbar could have got up, and as a matter of history did get up, much larger and physically more influential gatherings; the Delhi pageant of Lord Lytton was perhaps the largest of its kind; but they were the gatherings, of individuals—of men obeying the mandates of mighty potentates which could not be set aside—not a co-mingling of intellects, nor the result of voluntary free will effort, such as the last Congress was. Never before did in India men travel over great distances, at heavy cost, considerable discomfort, no small sacrifice of time and private business, to promote the general welfare of the community at large. They might have felt as keenly as people do now, and they might have been inspired by

a more ardent earnestness than what we have now. But they could not even for a moment dream of a Congress such as we have now held. Without railways such an attempt would have been difficult of achievement. The political jealousy of reigning chiefs would have nipped it in the bud; and linguistic differences would have proved an insuperable bar to its accomplishment. No free interchange of opinion could be possible without a common language, and no such language existed in India. It is the English language, our *lingua franca*, that has given to us the open sesame to the hearts of the different sections of our nation; it is the railway that has annihilated space; and it is the tolerant liberal spirit of British rule, that has checked the narrowness of of mind which would have conjured up fears for the safety of Government. All honor therefore to the British rule that has made such a Congress possible, and all honor to those who have availed themselves of the opportunity for so laudable a purpose.

The delegates arrived here in course of the previous week, and were formally received by the Reception Committee at a public meeting held in the Town Hall, on Monday last. The concourse was immense and the enthusiasm overflowing. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, as the foremost representative of Indian intellect, presided at the meeting, and welcomed the delegates in a speech fully worthy of the occasion and worthy of the renowned scholar. We shall reproduce the whole of it in a supplement next week. The choice of a President fell on Mr. Dadabhai Nawroji, and a happier choice could not have been made. A fluent speaker, a sound scholar and a facile writer, he brought to his task a fund of knowledge and an amount of varied experience in political matters which it would been difficult to find so admirably combined in any other person in this country. His inaugural speech was a model of its kind. Without parade of language, without flowery grace of style and elocution, he spoke for nearly an hour in a thorough business-like way, and every word he said touched the heart of his audience, and was received with enthusaustic cheers. His object was to prove the rectitude of purpose of the Congress, and in this he succeeded most admirably. He quoted largely from important state documents, and proved to every body's satisfaction that there was a necessity for the deliberations which the delegates had in view, that no honest exception could be taken on the score of any possible hostility to Government, and that those who conjured up such hostile or disloyal ideas were entirely mistaken. The moderation of tone which he adopted in all that he said was admirable.

The business of the Congress was opened on the 28th of December in the rooms of the British Indian Association; but on the two following days the sittings had to be held in the Town Hall, as the rooms aforesaid were not found convenient for the very large gatherings which assembled. The debates were carried on principally in the English language, but several gentlemen addressed the Congress in Urdu. In view of the large mass of business which had to be gone through, the speeches had to be limited to the orthodox ten to fifteen minutes, but as a single subject was taken up at a time, it caused no inconvenience; nor did it in any way check the full expression of opinion. There was perfect freedom of discussion; none hesitated for a moment to say what he felt; diverse and sometimes discordant views were ventilated without restraint; but the tone adopted was throughout moderate, and there was nothing said to which even the most fastidious could take a reasonable exception, and the prudence and good sense with which the President controlled the meeting was all that could be desired. Perhaps this was to a certain extent due to the unanimity of feeling which prevailed in regard to all the leading questions of the day, but had the unanimity been wanting, still amidst such a representative body including the ablest and most experienced men of a country, renowned for good breeding and polished manners, a different result was not to be expected. As became the loyalty of the Delegates they opened the business of the Congress, by offering their dutiful congratulations to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, in view of her Jubilee year, and closed their proceedings with repeated cheers for her and her representative. The second resolution dwelt on the necessity of "Representative Institutions as the most important step towards the amelioration of the condition of the people." The reference in this resolution to "the increasing poverty of vast numbers of the population of India" gave rise to some discussion; but the majority were of opinion that poverty was rapidly on the increase in the country. The third demanded "the reform and expansion of the legislativeCouncils The fourth resolution was by far the most important. It propounded a new scheme—a closet constitution drafted in haste and worded very clumsily—which gave rise to considerable differences of opinion, and will doubtless call forth much adverse criticism. The attempt in fact was a mistake. It was not for the Congress to devise constitutions, but to formulate in the fewest words what was really wanted. The substance of the resolution is that the people want a much wider representation than what obtains now in the legislative councils; the election by the people and not the nomination by Government of such representatives; and the right of interpellation and demand for papers, and nothing could be more appropriate. But details to which the resolution descends appear to us to be out of place and injudicious. The fifth resolution, prays for a Royal Commission of enquiry; and the sixth, and the seventh refer to the Civil Service question, In the latter the most important question at issue, the necessity of going to England, has been very unwisely and in a rather finessing spirit shunted out of the line to a siding. Had it been put before the Congress there was no doubt as to which side the majority would have voted, and a majority of those who had the drafting of the resolution did not like to face the consequence. We regret very much that in a business in which every thing else was above board and satisfactory, this blot should have been allowed to remain. The next three resolutions were devoted to the extension of trial by jury and the amendment of some clauses of the Criminal Procedure Code. The necessity of separating the executive from the judicial function of district officers forms the subject of the next following resolution. In this matter there was no difference of opinion, and we believe many Government officers of high standing admit its importance. The last substantive resolution prays for the authorisation of a system of Volunteering for the Indian inhabitants of the country in which too, as regards the people, there is no difference of opinion. Resolutions were also adopted for the formation of Standing Committees, for the holding of the next Congres at Madras, and for the communication of the resolutions adopted to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress the Secretary of State and the Viceroy. On the whole the Congress has been a great success, and we heartily congratulate ou countrymen on their having so well accomplished a national task of such vital importance. The Congress marks an era in our national political life, and we sincerely hope and trust that as time flows on it will gather strength and prosper.

A BROTHERLY PALAVER.

SOMETIME ago, Sir Rivers Thompson repudiated the mandatory character of the Christian maxim about putting forth the left cheek when the right is smitten by a neighbour. Our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News* thinks differently—at least he says, "if the *Englishman* chooses to misrepresent or abuse the *Patriot*, the latter should possess his soul in moderation, and take the remarks about him for what they are worth." We should be thankful for this piece of advice. Good advice is never lost, and when kindly meant is welcome. We hope we shall benefit by it. But is there nothing to be said about the misdemeanour of his countryman—nothing to check the wrong-doer? With characteristic modesty, our brother says, "we cannot accept either the compliments for eloquence to which we have no claim, nor admit the change of principles with which we are charged. Mr. Roberts and Babus Kristodas Pal and Rajendralala Mitra did make long speeches, and spoke at nearly all the meetings. As a matter of fact, our speeches were comparatively unfrequent, and nearly always brief. We have not the faculty of talking an hour and saying nothing, and when we have anything to say, ten or fifteen minutes suffice to say it. There may have been one or two occasions on which this was exceeded, but we were not long-winded as a rule." This disclaimer is uncalled for. We never charged our contemporary with "talking an hour and saying nothing," and for being "long-winded," and he might have therefore let the matter alone. We are aware of some people who can and do write a volume on a broomstick, but the idea never crossed our mind when we wrote about our contemporary. He would have done well, too, had he avoided the remarks about his former colleagues with whom he at one time worked so heartily and usefully, which involve the "insinivation" that they "talked an hour without saying anything" *i. e.* they were worthless wind-bags and fatuous flap-doodles. It is really not in good form. He will not deny that the three traduced men, studied more, knew more, and were able to speak more than any of their colleagues, and the scripturalist has it "out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh." We are in courtesy bound to accept the assertion of our brother when he says "as regards any change of principles, we repudiate the idea absolutely;" but we find ourselves placed in a dilemma. On December 18, Babu Bhubun Chunder Sett, quoted a passage from some old writings of our brother to show that the recent demand of our brother for higher representation of Europeans was not consistent with what he had said before, and in reply, our good brother, on the 22nd, said: "while we are quite prepared to stand by the main purport of what that pamphlet contains there are probably some things in it which, on a larger experience of the country, we should be disposed to modify." "To modify," we always thought, was 'to change,' 'to reduce in extent or degree,' to moderate, 'to lower,' and we know not how to reconcile this with "*absolute*" repudiation of the idea of any change. Our dilemma is, if we accept our brother's statement of the 22nd, we must reject the repudiation of the 28th, and if we accept the latter the former goes to the wall. Will he kindly help us out of this? He goes on: "Further, he says, we advocate the practical exclusion of the natives. We fear there is some 'whisky' here, and challenge him to produce any thing in our speeches or writings, from the first utterance till this hour that warrants such an assertion." This is indeed too bad! Charge a good Hindu of indulging in whisky, and then challenge a brother for such trifle! We are told Cain did it, but will that be a precedent? We remember too a cartoon in *Punch* in which a sailor, on being told that a Negro was his brother, said in horror: "*My* brother—indeed!" and we can fancy how our contemporary will be shocked at our repeatedly calling him a brother; but we believe too that he is a thorough Christian, and has implicit faith in the Biblical revelation about the genesis. In his pamphlet, he said, "the highest form of civilization is that where self government obtains. It recognizes the principle that every citizen has a share in the government of the state or community to which he belongs." Now, we have 24 European Commissioners to represent 13,000 Europeans, and 37 Hindus to represent 3,00,000 of their co-religionists. Our contemporary wants this ratio should be further differentiated by getting in more Europeans. His words are: "the chief element of vitality has been, and is, the independent European element, and the Hindoos would act more wisely if they would try to strengthen this element than seek to eliminate it." Will this suffice to meet the challenge? We hope so. We need scarcely remind our readers that the "chief element of vitality" here referred to is the same which, according to the *Pioneer* (quoted in our last issue,) is conspicuous by its absence. Our brother closes his leader by saying to us "he is welcome to turn us upside down and inside out if he cares to do it." But we don't care to do any thing of the kind with our brother. We do that with our gloves, when putting them on, or pulling them off, but not with man.

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is no argument why there should be more. The timehas come when all jute mills should be driven out of the urban limits, and if the Municipal authorities cannot see their way to effecting this at once, they should on no account allow new ones to be erected. The risk to life and property they involve is grave, and the Commissioners—the Ward Commissoners in particular—should see to this at once. We desire to invite Mr. Harrison's particular attention to this matter. The street is a narrow one, and the traffic on it so great that blocks are very frequent. We have seldom driven through it during business time without being stopped in the way by heavily-laden carts blocking the throughfare.

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It is hereby notified for general information that a Convocation of the University of Calcutta for conferring degrees will be held at the Senate House, College Street, on Saturday, the 8th January, at 3 P. M.

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Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, the 6th January 1887, *at* 3 P. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. Baboo Omirtonath Mitter to move that the Commissioners do re-consider the orders passed at the Meeting held on the 30th September, sanctioning the construction of a jute godown at No. 58 Nimtollah Ghat Street.

2 The Chairman to move that the Commissioners proceed to appoint from among their number a Town Council and Standing and Special Committees, as the period for which the present members were appointed, will expire on the 7th January.

3. Recommendation by the Town Council that the Resolution referred back to them "that the Suburban Commissioners be requested to pay half the expense for relief connections with the main sewer in Circular Road for suburban nikassi drain, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,207 was sanctioned," be confirmed.

4. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee, at Meetings held on the 19th November and 14th December.

5. To confirm the proceedings of the Bustee and Tank Commitee, at Meetings held on the 23rd November and 14th December.

6. To consider certain suggestions of the Special Committee appointed to consider the new draft Municipal Bill, at a Meeting held on the 3rd December.

7. To confirm the proceedings of the Town Council, at Meetings held on the 20th and 27th November. 4th, 11th and 18th December.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
42 *Secretary to the Coporation.*

POSTAL NOTICE.

REVISED RULES RELATING TO REMITTANCES BY TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDERS.

1. With effect from 1st January 1887, the commission for the issue of inland telegraphic money orders will be charged at the following reducep rates :—

	Rs.	As.
On sums not exceeding Rs. 10	1	0
„ exceeding Rs. 10, but not exceeding Rs. 25 ..	1	4
„ „ „ 25, „ „ 50 ...	1	8
„ „ „ 50, „ „ 75 ...	1	12
„ „ „ 75, „ „ 100 ...	2	0
„ „ „ 100, „ „ 125 ..	2	4
„ „ „ 125, „ „ 150 ...	2	8
„ „ „ 150, „ „ 200 ...	3	0
„ „ „ 200, „ „ 250 ...	3	8
„ „ „ 250, „ „ 300 ...	4	0
„ „ „ 300, „ „ 350 ...	4	8
„ „ „ 350, „ „ 400 ..	5	0
„ „ „ 400, „ „ 450 ...	5	8
„ „ „ 450, „ „ 500 ...	6	0
„ „ „ 500, „ „ 550 ...	6	8
„ „ „ 550, „ „ 600 ...	7	0

No additional charge will be levied for the telegram advising the remittance, The abov rates will cover both postal and telegraph charges.

2. The maximum amount for which a single inland telegraphic money order can be issued, will be raised to Rs. 600 : the minimum amount will be Re. 1.

3. No telegraphic money orders can include the fraction of a Rupee. Up to Rs. 150 these order will be available for sums in even Rupees : beyond that limit the order must be for sums which are multiples of Rs. 10.

4. Under existing rules a private message can be added by the remitter to the telegram advising the remittance on payment of the prescribed separate charges. This will not be permissible under these revised rules.

5. The remitter will not be able in future to prepay a reply from the payee acknowledging the remittance ; but he will obtain the ordinary money order acknowment by post.

Telegraphing amounts of foreign sterling money orders.

6. The amount of a foreign money order expressed in sterling can be tolegraphed, as at present, to Bombay, whence the order will be communicated by post to the foreign country of payment. The limit of value for a single foreign money order expressed in sterling and telegraphed as above will be raised to £40, and no such money order may be for less than £1 or contain a fraction of £1. The rates of commission (including telegraph charges) will be as follows :—

	Rs.	As.
On sums not exceeding £5	1	8
„ exceeding £ 5 but not exceeding £ 10	2	0
„ „ „ 10 „ „ 15	2	8
„ „ „ 15 „ „ 20	3	0
„ „ „ 20 „ „ 25	3	8
„ „ „ 25 „ „ 30	4	0
„ „ „ 30 „ „ 35	4	8
„ „ „ 35 „ „ 40	5	0

CALCUTTA, } P. SHERIDAN,
The 12th Dec. 1886. } *Offg. Deputy Director Genl.*
34. *of the Post Office of India.*

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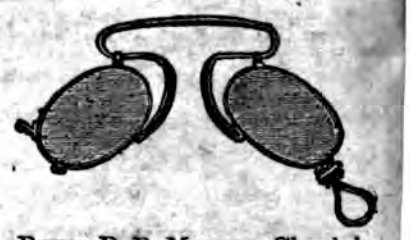

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